



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 December 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Staten Island Advance reports Robert Miraglia of Staten Island is accused of using an automated teller machine to steal financial information from people who used the machine to get cash. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports the flu season has already claimed lives in New Mexico and Colorado. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports a deadly series of 12 shootings have unnerved parents, motorists and others around a five-mile stretch of Interstate 270 near Columbus, Ohio. (See item [25](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 03, Reuters* — Utilities in U.S. Southeast call off grid effort. A group of large utilities in the U.S. Southeast said on Tuesday, December 1, they suspended efforts to create a regional power grid, citing regulatory concerns. In a statement, the utilities said they had called off a plan to weave their transmission networks together to create the so-called SeTrans grid, which would have extended over eight states from South Carolina to Louisiana. Citing conflicts between state regulators and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) over the agency's plan to create "regional transmission operators (RTOs),"

participating utilities said they "decided unanimously to suspend the SeTrans effort." FERC proposed the rules to combine electric utilities' patchwork transmission grids into pooled networks to reduce bottlenecks, boost supplies and lower consumer costs. However, southeast utility commissioners protested. They have complained that the region already has cheap power and that FERC's new rules would saddle their ratepayers with the cost of building new transmission grids to benefit users in other states.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters\\_pma\\_2003\\_12\\_02\\_eng-reuters\\_pma\\_UTILITIES-IN-U-S-SOUTHEAST-CALL-OFF-GRID-EFFORT&SMContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_12_02_eng-reuters_pma_UTILITIES-IN-U-S-SOUTHEAST-CALL-OFF-GRID-EFFORT&SMContentSet=0)

2. *December 03, The Courier-Journal (KY)* — **Explosion and fire damage LG&E plant. One of Louisville Gas and Electric Co.'s (LG&E) three main power plants was damaged Tuesday, December 2, in an explosion and fire that resulted from an unexplained "malfunction," company officials said.** No one was injured, the plant continued to operate, and power to customers was uninterrupted, the officials said. The explosion erupted about 8:30 a.m. in one of three mills that feed fine-ground coal to a boiler at the Cane Run generating station in Louisville, KY, said Chip Keeling, LG&E vice president for communications. **Keeling said the explosion and fire caused a "rather extreme" amount of damage to the coal mill, although precise information was not available.** Investigators have begun looking into the cause, but Keeling said, "there was some malfunction within the coal mill." The Cane Run station is one of three major electricity-generating plants within the LG&E system. The 180-megawatt plant burns 1.4 million tons of coal a year.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2003/12/03ky/met-5-explosion1203-4891.html><http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2003/12/03ky/met-5-explosion1203-4891.html>

3. *December 03, Dow Jones Business News* — **FirstEnergy launches programs in response to blackout. FirstEnergy Corp. has launched programs to improve tree trimming, transmission-operator training and computer systems that monitor transmission lines in response to the massive August 14 blackout,** company officials said Wednesday, December 3. The U.S.-Canadian task force investigating that event has largely held FirstEnergy responsible for its start. The blackout was preceded by multiple transmission-line failures in FirstEnergy's territory, some due to lines that sagged into trees, the task force said in its report. **According to Charles E. Jones, senior vice president of energy delivery and customer service, FirstEnergy is instituting a new "zero tolerance" program for tree-related outages that offers employee incentives for improved tree maintenance.** The company's previous tree program "obviously wasn't good enough and we need to get better," Jones said. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ordered FirstEnergy last week to file a plan by March 1 explaining how it will upgrade systems and training following the blackout.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031203/1415001249\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031203/1415001249_1.html)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *December 02, Federal Computer Week* — **National Guard to take on more homeland defense duties. The National Guard will play a greater role in protecting critical infrastructure in the United States from terrorist attacks**, said Paul McHale, the Department of Defense's assistant secretary for homeland defense on Tuesday, December 2. **Military studies of potential domestic terrorist attacks have determined that the National Guard should not only protect the defense industrial base but also critical infrastructure that has previously been defended by civilian law enforcement agencies**, said McHale. He called the new responsibility an "emerging mission requirement" for the National Guard, and said the Pentagon will increase the number of weapons of mass destruction civil support teams in the Guard from 32 to 55 by next year. The teams are designed to work with first responders to detect and react to the use of chemical or biological agents or other weapons of mass destruction on U.S. soil. McHale also said he believes, based on recent meetings with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, that a "significant and growing" portion of the annual Defense budget will be directed toward homeland defense activities.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1203/120203c1.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *December 03, Staten Island Advance (NY)* — **Staten Island man charged in ATM scam. Robert Miraglia of Staten Island, NY, is accused of using an automated teller machine (ATM) to steal financial information from people who used the machine to get cash**, according to an indictment announced Wednesday, December 3, by Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. **The stolen information was then used by Miraglia's confederates to steal money from Manhattan ATMs operated by JP Morgan Chase and Citibank**, Morgenthau said. Two alleged confederates garnered almost \$225,000 on a single day by using plastic cards imprinted with account information stolen from customers who used the ATM Miraglia had installed in a Manhattan deli, Morgenthau said. Morgenthau said approximately 300 gold-colored plastic cards and \$20,000 in cash were recovered from the confederates.
- Source: <http://www.silive.com/news/advance/index.ssf?/base/news/107046280337160.xml>
6. *December 02, The Independent (UK)* — **UK man admits blackmailing American Express for £6.2m in revenge action. A man has pleaded guilty to attempting to blackmail American Express for £6m by claiming to have evidence that employees of the credit card firm were involved in terrorism and corruption. Kulwant Singh pleaded guilty to the charge at London's Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday, December 2.** In 2001, Singh claimed to have had £17,000-worth of travelers' checks stolen while on a trip to India. He reported the loss to American Express' New Delhi branch, but they were suspicious of his claim and did not reimburse him. Singh then returned to Britain and started a High Court action, demanding \$14 million (£8m) compensation for missed business opportunities. The case was thrown out. In April last year, he went back to India to visit the branch office and burst in with

a video camera and started filming staff. By the time police arrived, he had fled. Six months later, he started bombarding the company's New York headquarters with telephone calls demanding to speak to the chief executive. He was later arrested by an undercover FBI agent working on the case.

Source: [http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/story.jsp?story=46927\\_1](http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/story.jsp?story=46927_1)

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## **Transportation Sector**

7. *December 03, Government Computer News* — **DHS plans smart seals for containers.** Early next year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will unveil a program for smart container seals that guarantee shipments have not been tampered with after inspection at foreign ports. **The smart-seal program is part of the effort to ensure that no bombs or hazardous materials find their way into about seven million containers arriving at U.S. ports each year, said Jayson P. Ahern, assistant commissioner of field operations for the Customs and Border Protection Bureau.** Speaking Wednesday at the E-Gov Homeland Security Conference in Washington, Ahern said a number of vendors are now testing smart-seal technologies. He said DHS will release more details about the program late next month. The quest for a “smart box” is part of the service’s policy of pushing the nation’s first line of defense farther away from U.S. borders.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/homeland-security/24318-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/homeland-security/24318-1.html)

8. *December 03, Associated Press* — **Japan's maglev train sets speed record.** A magnetically levitated Japanese train raced to a new record Tuesday, topping its own record set just last month. The experimental maglev set the world's top speed for a train, clocking 361 mph in a test run in Yamanashi Prefecture (state), west of Tokyo, Central Japan Railway Co., which is carrying out the experiments, said in a statement. **Maglev trains differ from conventional trains in that magnets lift them slightly off the track, eliminating speed-reducing friction and reducing noise.** The maglev is part of a government-financed project to develop faster trains for a country that is already home to some of the world's speediest. Central Japan Railway Co., part of the former state-run railway, is jointly developing the maglev with Japan's Railway Technology Research Institute. **Germany has developed a maglev train, and the United States also is planning one.**

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=562&u=/ap/20031202/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/japan\\_maglev\\_2&printer=1](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=562&u=/ap/20031202/ap_on_hi_te/japan_maglev_2&printer=1)

9. *December 03, Associated Press* — **Nantucket ferry takes on water.** A Steamship Authority ferry was escorted back to Nantucket after its engines stalled and it began taking on water. **None of the nine passengers or seven crew members aboard the "Flying Cloud" was injured in Tuesday night's incident. But the ferry sustained some structural damage.** Steamship Authority spokeswoman Paula Peters told the Cape Cod Times that the Flying Cloud was en route from Nantucket to Hyannis, MA, when its engine cut out. Peters said that caused the ferry to be tossed around in rough seas. The waves apparently punched a hole in the bow and also damaged a water-jet inlet, causing water to spill into the engine room. A Coast Guard vessel arrived and escorted the ferry back to Nantucket Harbor.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/2678636/detail.html>

10. *December 03, TheIndyChannel.com* — **Local Amtrak workers walk off job.** Close to 600 union workers at the Amtrak maintenance and repair facility in Beech Grove, IN, walked off the job Wednesday protesting the company's decision to hire contract workers. The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Local 2003 Transport Workers Union believe the jobs should have gone to union members who have been previously laid off. Hundreds of Amtrak workers have been laid off at the facility over the years. Eleven other unions at the facility decided to support the striking Amtrak workers, and didn't cross the picket line, RTV6's Julie Pursley reported. "We are a group of unions out here and we honor all unions," IBEW 784 President Bob Taylor said. The contract workers were brought in by the company to work on tracks and rail cars. **An Amtrak spokesman out of Chicago said the company considered it to be a minor dispute, and that it should be discussed privately with the unions, not with the media, Pursley reported.** Company officials consider the strike illegal, and were expected to ask a judge for an injunction Wednesday. Beech Grove Mayor Warner Wiley visited the picket line to talk to the workers about their concerns. "If you bring people from the outside in to do the work — I think Amtrak should reconsider doing that," Wiley said. **Amtrak officials said the strike was not affecting travel.**  
Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/employment/2679260/detail.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

11. *December 02, Reuters* — **Air express firms oppose possible China tax. China may add a new tax on express delivery companies to help fund a rural postal service, an industry group said Monday in the latest hurdle to foreign players in the industry.** Firms such as FedEx and UPS strongly opposed such a tax, proposed in draft legislation being reviewed by Chinese authorities, said Ira Wolf, the director of the Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers (Capec). "Our concern is that we may be singled out as a sector to help finance a universal postal fund," Wolf said. A tax would be a blow to foreign companies struggling to get a bigger slice of a market guarded by government-run China Post, the industry monopoly that is also its regulator. **After months of wrangling, Beijing decided in September to let foreign express firms deliver abroad some documents from China, but barred them from personal letters and government mail. The decision largely protected China Post's lock on letter delivery and analysts have said the most lucrative parts of the business will be off-limits to foreign operators for some time.** Wolf said that he did not know how much the tax would be or when a final version of the legislation was expected to be passed.  
Source: <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/story/0.4567.101347.00.ht ml>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *December 03, Agricultural Research Service* — **Disease-resistant citrus rootstocks. Three new citrus rootstocks developed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have emerged as strong candidates to help the U.S. citrus industry combat key diseases and the**



**citrus root weevil.** The new rootstocks, called US-897, US-942 and US-802, were developed at the ARS U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory. ARS research on citrus rootstocks goes back more than a century. It's only been in recent years, however, that the industry has felt an urgency to deal with growing rootstock problems, such as those caused by citrus tristeza virus, foot rot and root rot (*Phytophthora* species), and the *Diaprepes abbreviatus* root weevil. **The citrus industry has a total economic impact exceeding \$8 billion annually in the state of Florida.** A quality rootstock can defend itself against diseases and pests, while producing a high yield of quality fruit sustained over a long period of time, up to 50 years. **The three new rootstocks are three to four years away from commercialization, but they have performed well in initial tests combating *Phytophthora nicotianae*, *P. palmivora* and the *diaprepes* citrus root weevil.** These two *phytophthora*, combined with *diaprepes*, can form a lethal combination that could devastate Florida's citrus industry.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/031203.htm>

13. *December 03, USAgNet* — **Holstein Association approves identification program.** Holstein Association USA, Inc., the world's largest dairy breed organization, has approved the Cattle Identification Database (CID) to identify any breed of cattle including crossbred animals. **The CID program will record lineage and available performance data on crossbred animals.** The program offers the convenience of recording every animal in a herd, regardless of breed, and gives producers the ability to meet their identification needs. The Holstein Association USA, Inc. board of directors approved CID at their November board meeting. **Development is currently in progress, and CID will be available for producers late in 2004.**

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1297&yr=2003>

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## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Water Sector**

14. *October 31, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-29: Drinking Water: Experts' Views on How Future Federal Funding Can Best Be Spent to Improve Security (Report).** In a report published on Tuesday, December 2, and dated October 31, **the General Accounting Office (GAO) cited distribution systems as among the most vulnerable physical components of a drinking water utility. Also cited were the computer systems that manage critical utility functions, treatment chemicals stored on site, and source water supplies.** GAO conducted a Web-based survey of 43 experts to seek consensus on these key drinking water security issues. When experts were asked to identify specific security-enhancing activities most deserving of federal support, their responses generally fell into three categories: physical and technological upgrades to improve security and research to develop technologies to prevent, detect, or respond to an attack; education and training to support, among other things, simulation exercises; and strengthening key relationships between water utilities and other agencies that may have key roles in emergency response. Highlights:

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## **Public Health Sector**

15. *December 03, Associated Press* — **Flu claims lives in New Mexico, Colorado. The flu has plagued classrooms and offices around New Mexico, and now state health officials are trying to determine if the virus played any role in the death of an adult and three children.** One child died at home and two others died at Albuquerque hospitals. They ranged in age from three months to three years, state epidemiologist C. Mack Sewell said. Results probably will not be available before the end of this week, he added. Sewell said influenza, while problematic during a normal year, seems to be worse this year. "What we've seen is that it is quite a bit earlier and pretty intense, he said. "It was a local outbreak two weeks ago and jumped to widespread in a week." **Meanwhile, in Colorado, health officials announced Tuesday that two more children died from the flu, bringing the statewide total to at least five.** The latest victims were a two-year-old and a four-year-old from the north Denver suburb of Thornton, state health officials said.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751&e=9&u=/ap/20031203/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/flu\\_report](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751&e=9&u=/ap/20031203/ap_on_he_me/flu_report)

16. *December 03, Associated Press* — **Massachusetts hospital isolates bacteria patients.** Children's Hospital, in Boston, has begun isolating patients carrying a rare strain of bacteria, which has been found in the lungs of at least 20 patients with cystic fibrosis and possibly contributed to the death of one woman. **"We're alarmed because we had only seen Burkholderia dolosa one time in the past 10 years,"** said Craig Gerard, chief of the respiratory disease division at the hospital. **Burkholderia dolosa are harmless to most people, and state health officials said other patients at Children's face no risk.** People with cystic fibrosis are highly susceptible to infection. In 2001, a woman with cystic fibrosis died a few days after she tested positive for Burkholderia dolosa, leading doctors to suspect it played a role her death, Gerard said. The hospital launched aggressive infection control efforts about six weeks ago when the Michigan lab that analyzes samples from cystic fibrosis patients concluded that five Children's patients had newly tested positive for the bacteria. **Hospital officials believe the bacteria is spread between cystic fibrosis patients, perhaps when an infected patient coughs on an uninfected one, so the decision was made to isolate patients who carry Burkholderia dolosa to prevent further contamination.**

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751&e=9&u=/ap/20031203/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/new\\_bacteria\\_strain](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751&e=9&u=/ap/20031203/ap_on_he_me/new_bacteria_strain)

17. *December 03, CBC News* — **Better SARS tests needed. Better diagnostic tests are needed for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), according to a Canadian study that found current tests identified only 71 per cent of patients.** A group of researchers in Ontario reviewed laboratory results from Toronto's outbreak last March and April. Patrick Tang of the University of Toronto and colleagues said they lacked a "gold standard" for diagnosing SARS-associated coronavirus, which made it impossible to determine the value of the tests. **"The tests used in this study were not useful for ruling out disease in the individual**

**patient," the researchers said.** They said diagnostic laboratory tests were used in 110 of 117 patients admitted to hospital who met Health Canada's definition for suspect or probable SARS. They found 70.9 per cent of the patients had at least one specimen test positive for the virus, whereas 29.1 per cent were negative for all tests. In a commentary on the study, a pair of Dutch virologists warned negative tests shouldn't be considered an all-clear. **"At present, neither negative results nor single positive results of molecular tests can be considered conclusive for the detection of the SARS coronavirus,"** wrote Ron Fochier and Ab Osterhaus of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam.

Source: [http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/12/03/sars\\_tests031203](http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/12/03/sars_tests031203)

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## **Government Sector**

**18. *December 03, Government Computer News* — Task force calls for unified homeland security network.** An independent task force recommends that the federal government should create an integrated network that will let federal, state and local agencies share homeland security information. The task force of national security and IT specialists, funded by the Markle Foundation of New York, unveiled its findings today at a briefing in Washington. In its report, the Task Force on National Security in the Information Age said the Homeland Security Department should oversee design, funding and implementation of such a network, but that all users at all levels of government should have a say in how it works. **The task force dubbed its proposal SHARE, or Systemwide Homeland Analysis and Resource Exchange. The network should operate according to governmentwide guidelines for information sharing and privacy protection that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is developing, the report said.** The foundation's task force worked with the Brookings Institution and the Center for Strategic and International Studies to draft the report.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/homeland-security/24322-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/homeland-security/24322-1.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**19. *December 03, Associated Press* — September 11 probers look at emergency radios.** Concerns about the effectiveness of emergency radios on September 11 have focused on technological flaws, but probers on Tuesday identified another problem: too many people trying to talk at once. **The overwhelming rush of radio transmissions by emergency personnel responding to the World Trade Center may have cut off one-third to one-half of radio calls, according to preliminary findings by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST is also examining the construction and evacuation procedures of the towers.** Communications breakdowns among rescue personnel have been blamed for slowing the evacuation of office workers and rescuers, but most of the complaints have centered around poorly-designed equipment or spotty reception in the 110-story buildings. NIST investigators, offering an update on their long-running inquiry, said the radio systems "experienced surge load conditions after the attack." The condition existed on systems of the Port Authority, which operated the complex and has its own police force, and the New York



City police and fire department personnel which rushed to the scene. Shyam Sunder, the lead investigator on the project, said the radio systems were probably not designed to carry the heavy load of traffic caused by such an extreme emergency.

Source: [http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section\\_Id=41&id=22669](http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section_Id=41&id=22669)

20. *December 03, Firehouse.com* — **A powerful new weapon in fight against wildfires.** Only hours after the devastating Cedar wildfire erupted in San Diego County, Philip Riggan boarded a specially equipped twin-engine airplane and headed toward the inferno. Some 17,000 feet above the flames, the plane sailed over thick plumes of smoke as Riggan sat behind a flat-screen computer monitor observing infrared images of the white-hot flames racing out of control and threatening people and their homes. **Using a revolutionary thermal infrared camera, Riggan provided firefighters with a detailed map showing the wide swath of destruction cut by the wildfire. Within 90 minutes after the images were taken, fire officials used the data to direct strike teams and airdrops as well as coordinate evacuations.** For the first time, firefighters and the public were able to log onto the Internet and monitor the progress of actual wildfires. **Up to now, fire-intelligence gathering was stuck in the 1950s, with scientists relegated to using bulky, expensive infrared equipment to produce poor images from the sky.** Mounted on an airplane or helicopter, the system is composed of the infrared camera unit, a Global Positioning System, a small telephone satellite transmitter and a notebook-size computer. The device can see through smoke and dust and record an image picked up from the heat generated on the ground, something conventional cameras can't do.

Source: <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=34&topicId=17906&docId=1:63781888&start=1>

21. *December 03, Reuters* — **Mock hijackings help air marshals train.** Away from the airplane at the air marshal training center in Atlantic City, marshals practice shooting in confined quarters and take part in hand-to-hand combat drills aimed at disarming attackers. They also practice rushing down escape slides with guns in hand, shooting accurately from a seated position and becoming familiar with the radio and basic layout of the cockpit. **The goal: to prevent another September 11, 2001, when 19 hijackers took over four U.S. airplanes and slammed them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. "We have to assure the public that they can fly safely," said Thomas Quinn, director of the Federal Air Marshal Service.** Excellent marksmanship is one of the key skills required of the marshals, who work in very compact spaces often tens of thousands of feet in the air. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Ridge, who said another terror attack on the United States or U.S. interests was likely, said the government remained focused on bolstering security in the skies. **"For the foreseeable future, aviation security will be one of the highest priorities in this country," said Ridge.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/12/03/security.marshals.reut/>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

22. *December 03, Reuters* — **Web virus authors 'winning battle' -- Microsoft.** Creators of computer viruses are winning the battle with law enforcers and getting away with crimes that

cost the global economy some \$13 billion this year, a Microsoft official said Wednesday, December 3 at a cybercrime conference in Germany. **Counterfeit centers are shifting from California and Western Europe to countries including Paraguay, Colombia and Ukraine said David Finn. In Asia, pirate plants have emerged in Vietnam, Macao, and Myanmar (Burma) in addition to more established facilities in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.**

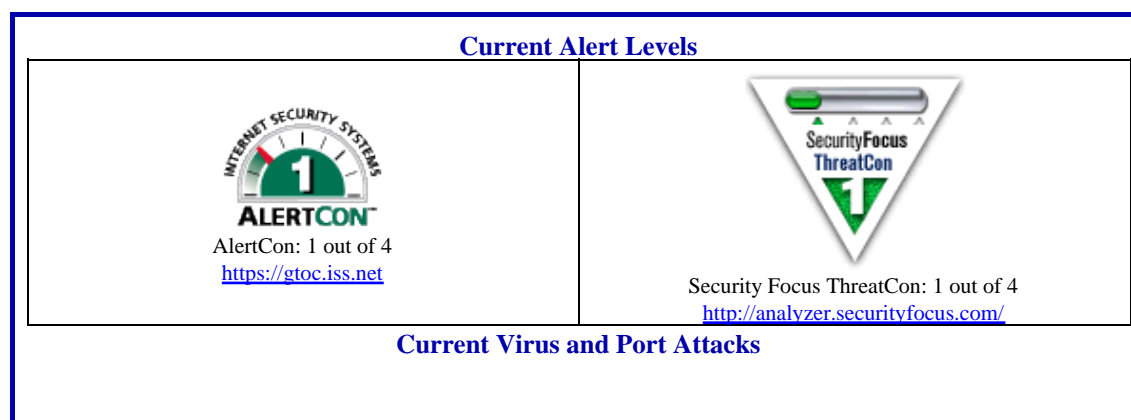
"So far they are getting away with it...Very few have been identified or prosecuted or punished," Finn said. He cited estimates by Business Week that financial damage this year from bugs like the Blaster worm and the SoBig.F e-mail virus, which crashed systems and disrupted Internet traffic around the world, would total some \$13 billion. The cost of protecting networks against such cyberattacks was put at \$3.8 billion. Finn said "we shouldn't be surprised" if terror organizations were looking to recruit computer expertise. **Len Hynds, head of the National High-Tech Crime Unit in Britain, said gangs were recruiting people with IT skills not only to help them commit cybercrime but to secure their own communications networks and avoid detection.** He said companies needed to recruit more carefully.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=4VCEH3DBTPWY YCRBAEKSFEY?type=technologyNews&storyID=3932542>

23. *December 02, CNET News.com* — **Government officials join security summit.** Silicon Valley executives are slated to meet on Wednesday , December 4, with top bureaucrats from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to hammer out ways that the private sector can work with government to enhance national security and avoid creating regulations. **The National Cyber Security Summit will bring together top executives at security and technology companies with policy-makers.** Corporate leaders are expected to announce several new task forces and initiatives aimed at making information security a boardroom issue. The gathering comes nine months after the Bush administration unveiled its plan to secure the Internet through cooperation instead of regulation. It also comes just in time to stiffen opposition to a bill that would require companies to reveal the results of a security audit in their financial reports. The meeting, which will be held at the Santa Clara Marriott, will try to convince government officials that security-savvy organizations can teach industry executives to consider information security at the boardroom level. **The meeting will establish at least three task forces, including the Corporate Governance Task Force, the CEO Cyber Security Task Force, and the Technical Standards and Common Criteria Task Force.**

Source: [http://news.com.com/2100-7348\\_3-5112896.html?tag=nefd\\_top](http://news.com.com/2100-7348_3-5112896.html?tag=nefd_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_LOVGATE.G</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	135 (epmap), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 21 (ftp), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1257 (shockwave2), 4662 (eDonkey2000) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## **General Sector**

**24. *December 03, Washington Post* — U.S. arrests 34 in Iraq raid.** U.S. forces arrested 34 people and seized an arsenal of weapons in a massive raid on a town in northern Iraq today in a continuing crackdown on insurgents, U.S. military officials said. The raid came as authorities in neighboring Saudi Arabia and in Afghanistan reported separate developments related to the war on terrorism being. **In Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry announced the arrest of a man accused of involvement in a November 8 suicide bombing that killed 17 people and wounded 122 others in a housing compound in the capital, Riyadh.** It was the first arrest in connection with the attack, which Saudi authorities blamed on a "terrorist cell" linked to Osama bin Laden's network. In Afghanistan, two U.S. soldiers were wounded when an Afghan policeman threw a grenade at their military vehicle Wednesday in the southern city of Kandahar. **The raid in Hawija was aimed at persons identified by U.S. military authorities as having been involved in attacks on American or allied targets in Iraq. The military said 70 small arms and six rocket-propelled grenade launchers were seized in the operation.**  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31593-2003Dec 3.html>

**25. *December 03, Associated Press* — Ohio shootings unnerve parents, motorists.** A deadly series of 12 shootings since May including one in which a bullet broke a window at **Hamilton Central Elementary School** last month in the middle of the night have unnerved parents, motorists and others around a five-mile stretch of Interstate 270. **Investigators believe the shootings are connected, with one woman in a car being killed last week.** Parents are now nervously taking their children by the hand and walking them to school. Teachers were given maps to help them get to work without using the highway nearby. Outdoor recess was canceled for the rest of the week. "Until they catch him, there's no way they're getting on the bus," said Michelle Maupin, who changed her routine to drop her 7-year-old daughter off at school. Police officers and sheriff's deputies watched over students arriving and leaving the brick school, which has 468 students in kindergarten through third grade. Three boys waved cheerily at an officer stationed at the door. **Some parents said they were not comfortable with their children being at class. Seventy students were absent Wednesday, according to the school system, almost double the usual number.**  
Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031203\\_1617.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031203_1617.html)

**26. *December 02, BBC News* — UN urges more action on al Qaeda.** Only a lack of technical expertise is stopping al Qaeda from carrying out a chemical or biological attack, a United Nations (UN) report has warned. The report said al Qaeda ideology had continued to spread,

raising the spectre of further attacks. Sanctions against al Qaeda were proving difficult to implement fully, the UN panel of experts said. And they warned that United Nations member states were not doing enough to crack down on terror groups. **"Al Qaeda continues to have access to funds through charities, deep-pocket donors and from business and criminal activities, including the drug trade," the report said.** Until now the monitoring committee has relied on UN member states to volunteer information about how they are limiting the activities of al Qaeda and associated groups. But fewer than half of all member states are co-operating and even the quality of the information provided by those states is being questioned, the report said. **The report called on the UN Security Council to pass a resolution that would compel nations to co-operate more fully. The report said that while great importance had been attached to limiting the movement of al Qaeda operatives between countries, so far not a single UN member state had presented any evidence of the arrest or detention of such people at border crossings.**

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3254828.stm>

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